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Chair: Ms. Shikongo (Vice-Chair) (Namibia)

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In the absence of Mr. Saikal (Afghanistan), Ms. Shikongo (Namibia), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 109: Crime prevention and criminal justice (continued) (A/73/131, A/73/132, A/73/133, A/73/134 and A/73/136)

Agenda item 110: International drug control (continued) (A/73/135)

1. **Ms. Kipiani** (Georgia) said that the top priorities set out in her country's criminal justice reform strategy and action plan for the period 2017–2021 were to prevent crime, protect human rights, establish a fair and independent judiciary and ensure accountability, objectivity and efficiency in the criminal justice system. The judicial reform was aimed at providing stronger guarantees for non-interference with judicial decisions and creating an impartial case allocation system that ensured that judges were selected based on clear criteria and fair and transparent procedures.
2. Georgia had established an interagency council on combating trafficking in human beings, which mobilized all major governmental and non-governmental actors to ensure well-coordinated, multifaceted and inclusive actions against trafficking. Of particular concern was the protection of street children, and initiatives taken by the council included the issuance of identification documents to ensure their access to State-run services. The effectiveness of the anti-trafficking national referral mechanism and the efforts made for the identification and resocialization of street children had been widely recognized.
3. The fight against drug abuse and drug-related crimes were among the key priorities in Georgia. The anti-drug policy was aimed at developing national measures to prevent crime, providing treatment and rehabilitation programmes and reducing drug supply and demand, with particular attention to raising awareness of the threats of drug consumption. In that context, a national drug monitoring centre, which introduced evidence-based scientific methodologies to collect and analyse information on the drug situation in Georgia, had been established in May 2018.
4. Georgia had enhanced its counterterrorism legislation by widening the scope of terrorism-related offences to include those activities set out in Security Council resolution 2178 (2014). The strengthening of the legal framework had resulted in effective enforcement measures to prosecute perpetrators connected with international terrorism.

5. **Mr. Salarzai** (Afghanistan) said that the nexus between narcotics and terrorism was well documented in his country; the illicit drug trade continued to undermine its stability and economic development and facilitated other forms of transnational organized crime. The adverse impact of drugs, coupled with unemployment and poverty, had had a profound effect on society, to the extent that around 3.2 million Afghans were victims of the global epidemic of drug abuse.

6. The Government was committed to combating the drug problem with concrete policies. In 2017, it had conducted over 2,700 operations leading to over 3,000 arrests, including of foreign nationals, and the seizure of 300 tons of narcotics. It had also destroyed 50 drug processing labs and 12 storage facilities. Those actions had led to a net loss of \$362 million for drug traffickers. Policy-related measures to curb the narcotics trade included enhancing security at airports and border crossing points, the bombardment of facilities involved in drug production and distribution and the creation of an emergency response unit.

7. Despite efforts to curb narcotics production and trade, a significant percentage of poppy cultivation and drug production took place in the insecure provinces of Afghanistan, and terrorist organizations were creating fertile ground for production and trafficking. Three key factors behind the need to enhance security in that area were the increase in the number of foreign fighters affiliated with transnational terrorist networks; Taliban involvement in the narcotics trade; and the distinction that some Member States had made between "good" and "bad" terrorists. Noting that promoting security and bringing peace and stability to the country was a priority, he called on the international community to provide its continued support to overcome the drug menace in the country.

8. **Mr. Alajmi** (Qatar) said that his country was working tirelessly to implement the Organized Crime Convention and uphold the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and looked to the Convention as a mechanism for strengthening criminal justice systems and the rule of law and facilitating the achievement of the goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

9. The Doha Declaration, adopted at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, had contributed greatly to the inclusion of crime prevention and criminal justice in the wider United Nations agenda. Qatar would continue to work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on the follow-up to that Declaration and welcomed the adoption of the Doha Declaration Global Programme, which provided support for special

sports programmes to prevent crime among young people, as well as for projects related to the rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners, justice education, and judicial integrity.

10. Qatar had adopted a number of procedures to combat illicit drug use and, as part of its National Development Strategy 2018–2022, was implementing projects to raise awareness of the dangers posed by illicit drugs, provide treatment to and rehabilitate drug users, and provide training on effective counter-drug strategies.

11. It was also taking action to combat trafficking in persons. In 2017, Qatar had hosted the fifth International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Global Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants and had helped convene the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Qatar called on Member States to uphold the commitments they had made at that meeting and redouble their efforts to implement the recommendations contained in its outcome document.

12. Qatar played an effective regional role in raising awareness of anti-corruption measures and had been ranked as one of the world's least corrupt countries in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index — an achievement that had been possible because of his Government's strenuous efforts to combat all forms of corruption. At the international level, Qatar had launched an annual award to honour individuals and institutions that had made special efforts in the fight against corruption. It was also preparing to host an international conference on cybersecurity, in support of efforts by the international community to combat cybercrime.

13. **Mr. Wong Keng Hoe** (Singapore) said that Singapore, given its position as a transport hub, was vulnerable to transnational crime, in particular cybercrime and the drugs trade. Cybercrime, which had been the primary focus of the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, was estimated to have cost \$600 billion worldwide in 2017, up from \$445 billion in 2014. As an open and connected economy with one of the highest mobile phone penetration rates in the world, Singapore was particularly vulnerable to cyberthreats. To counter such threats and protect essential services, it had implemented a national cybersecurity strategy, as well as a national cybercrime action plan to educate the public, strengthen legislation and enhance capacity to detect and deter cyberthreats.

14. At the regional level, as a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Singapore had organized cybercrime workshops with dialogue partners from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. At the international level, it had hosted the sixth INTERPOL-Europol Cybercrime Conference on cyberthreat intelligence, methods to identify cybercriminals through their online behaviour and the role of digital forensics. Determined to continue to play an active role in facilitating cooperation and coordination in cybersecurity, Singapore planned to establish the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence, with the aim of training computer emergency response teams, strengthening cyberrelated legislation and research capabilities and promoting information-sharing on cyberthreats across the region.

15. Drug abuse was another transnational challenge that needed to be addressed. The approach in Singapore had been based on harm prevention rather than harm reduction and the Government had thus adopted a comprehensive drug control strategy, characterized by preventive drugs education, vigorous enforcement, tough legislation and a strong emphasis on engagement and rehabilitation. The approach had contained the drug situation in Singapore to the extent that it had one of the lowest rates of drug abuse worldwide, with drug abusers comprising less than 0.1 per cent of the population. However, strong international cooperation was required to tackle existing and emerging transnational threats. Singapore would continue to work with other Member States to meet the goals set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

16. **Ms. Inanc-Ornekol** (Turkey) said that the international community should act in close cooperation to address the threat of transnational organized crime, including human trafficking, which constituted a clear violation of human rights and had immense social and economic costs. Turkey, which hosted more refugees than any other country, was determined to prevent refugees from falling victim to human trafficking and forced labour. It had taken a number of steps in that regard, including establishing a coordination commission, revising the national action plan on human trafficking, setting up a multilingual helpline and creating victim support and voluntary return programmes.

17. Turkey was committed to combating terrorism in all its forms without distinction. It would continue to fight all terrorist organizations, including the Fethullah terrorist organization, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Qaida, the Kurdish Workers Party and the

Partiya Yekitiya Demokrat. The international community must act with equal determination against all terrorist organizations; a selective approach was unacceptable. In addition, States must ensure that terrorists were brought to justice. Effective implementation of the obligation to extradite or prosecute was crucial. Given the link between terrorism and organized crime, efforts must be made to tackle human, drug and arms trafficking and money-laundering.

18. The world drug problem must be approached comprehensively. Turkey contributed to bilateral and multilateral efforts to fight drug abuse and trafficking. Owing to its geographic location, Turkey was exposed to an extensive flow of illicit goods. Its counter-narcotics policy was based on three pillars: combating domestic distribution networks; dismantling international drug trafficking networks; and investigating the financing of terrorist groups — in particular the Kurdish Workers Party — through drug trafficking. The national strategy on drugs and the action plan, which covered the period 2018–2023, had been implemented under the coordination of the Ministry of Health.

19. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that while technological progress had brought enormous benefits to the world, it had also led to new forms of terrorism and criminal activity. The Holy See was particularly concerned about the growth of cybercrimes such as hacking, computer forgery, the spread of fake news, the dissemination of child pornography and copyright infringement. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) had found in a study that girls accounted for the majority of victims of cyber child abuse and exploitation.

20. The Holy See was also concerned about the spread of drug abuse and trafficking. Reducing drug consumption was critical; legalizing drug use was not an acceptable way to combat addiction. The Holy See viewed the family unit as integral to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies. As the global drug crisis was fuelled by diffuse production and distribution centres and by sophisticated money-laundering schemes embedded in financial centres and banking operations, the Holy See therefore encouraged international cooperation at legislative and operational levels. It also supported preventive and therapeutic medical treatments that would help the victims of drug abuse to rediscover their dignity as human beings.

21. **Ms. Vadhanaphong** (Thailand) said that his country had joined the efforts of the international community to deliver long-term, inclusive and

sustainable interventions to combat the global drug problem at the national and international levels. Thailand had reiterated its commitment and political will by co-hosting the Global Call to Action on the World Drug Problem, aimed at reducing drug demand, eliminating the supply of illicit drugs, expanding treatment and strengthening international cooperation. In an effort to crack down on drug trafficking, it had also partnered with UNODC to improve cross-border cooperation and intelligence-sharing. Under the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control, border liaison offices had been tasked with sharing real-time information on drug trafficking activities and transnational crime.

22. Alternative development was a critical component of a comprehensive drug control strategy. In July 2018, Thailand had co-hosted with Germany, Peru and UNODC an expert group meeting on alternative development, during which participants had reviewed best practices and lessons learned and discussed how alternative development could contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. During its sixty-sixth session, to be held in March 2019, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs would consider the report and recommendations adopted at that meeting.

23. With regard to drug demand reduction, Thailand had continued to implement a health-based drug policy under which a mechanism had been established to provide access to treatment for drug users, including addicts in prison. As set out in the *World Drug Report 2018*, a much higher proportion of women than men were in prison for drug-related offences. Consequently, Thailand had applied a gender perspective to crime prevention strategies and prison administration. It was a priority in prison management for female prisoners to be treated in accordance with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders.

24. Given the link between drugs, corruption, illicit financial flows and organized crime, it was necessary to strengthen policies to prevent and detect the transfer of proceeds of crime. In that regard, Thailand had adopted an anti-corruption act in July 2018, containing new provisions that were in compliance with the requirements of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

25. **Ms. Belskaya** (Belarus) said that the creation of effective cooperation mechanisms enabled the comprehensive coordination of efforts to combat trafficking in persons. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons played an important role in that process. As traffickers were able

to carry out practically every step of their criminal activities using the Internet, combating trafficking in cyberspace was therefore of particular importance.

26. Belarus supported the international legal and institutional framework for combating drugs and efforts to adapt the three international anti-drug conventions to the new realities. It did not support calls to legalize drugs or to lift bans on illicit drug trafficking. The use of drugs by children and adolescents was unacceptable.

27. Belarus commended the efforts of UNODC to provide legal support to States in combating terrorism and welcomed the fact that, at the anti-terrorism conference to be held in Minsk in October 2018, UNODC would hold a seminar on that topic for representatives of law enforcement bodies.

28. **Mr. Wang Zhaoxue** (China) said that his country supported the international drug control system anchored on the three main drug control conventions, opposed the legalization of illicit drugs and stressed the need to regulate controlled substances in strict accordance with those conventions while ensuring their uses for medical and scientific purposes. It also supported the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization in performing their work in accordance with their respective mandates, as well as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its role in formulating international drug control policies and in steering the preparatory process of the high-level ministerial segment of its sixty-second session. The implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Outcome Document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem should be the focus of the work of all stakeholders. China also supported the publication of the updated edition of the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention by UNODC and hoped that they would guide Member States in formulating preventive education strategies in line with their respective national conditions.

29. The global drug problem needed to be tackled through a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach. In fighting the drug scourge, human rights should be safeguarded while giving due consideration to the need to ensure social order, public welfare and shared interests. However, no undue emphasis should be given to human rights issues at the cost of endeavours in other fields. Countries needed to strengthen international law enforcement and judicial cooperation in drug control and help developing countries in their

capacity-building through funding assistance, technological cooperation and information-sharing to jointly respond to the challenge. The international community should pay attention to the inadequate supply of basic medicines in some countries and the abuse, overuse and illicit transfer of controlled substances in other countries. Each country was entitled to formulate drug control policies best suited to its national conditions in conformity with the three conventions. The question of the death penalty should not be associated with that of narcotic drugs.

30. Adopting a zero-tolerance approach to corruption, China had established the National Supervision Commission in 2018. Given the importance of international anti-corruption cooperation, China called on States parties to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption and eliminate political and legal obstacles to cooperation in tracking fugitives and recovering assets transnationally so that corrupt officials and their illicit gains would have nowhere to hide. The parties should adhere to the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for sovereignty, and the intergovernmental nature of review mechanisms, so as to properly conduct the second cycle of the review and improve working efficiency.

31. Parties should apply the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as a form of judicial support and a legal basis for cooperation in the areas of extradition and asset recovery. His delegation supported the establishment of an effective mechanism for reviewing the implementation of the Convention and was of the view that all parties should engage in the intergovernmental process and ensure a non-invasive and non-punitive character in the design of the mechanism, while drawing on experiences relating to a similar mechanism for the Convention against Corruption.

32. In the context of the recent increase in incidents of cybercrime and transnational telecommunications fraud and ransomware attacks, his delegation supported the work of the group of experts on cybercrime as well as the formulation of an international legal instrument on cybercrime.

33. **Mr. Thein** (Myanmar) said that in 2018, his country had adopted a new policy that aimed to reduce the supply of drugs by investigating drug-related offences, combating corruption and implementing development programmes. As part of that approach, over 1,000 farmers in Myanmar had switched from opium to coffee production and had recently signed a major contract with a French coffee company. The new

policy also aimed to curb demand for drugs by promoting a harm-reduction approach that focused on prevention. It also emphasized international cooperation, investment in research and analysis and compliance with human rights.

34. The trafficking of synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine in East and Southeast Asia had led to security risks and public health issues. The Government of Myanmar was particularly alarmed by reports of trafficking of large quantities of precursor chemicals in the region. To address that issue, Myanmar would host a regional conference in November on regional cooperation to stem the flow of precursors. Early warning systems could help monitor the phenomenon and foster a proactive approach. Countries such as Myanmar, with limited resources, required assistance in collecting and analysing information and in improving national capacity for tackling drug-related problems. UNODC therefore needed adequate resources so that it could support Member States in their efforts to counter transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism and strengthen their criminal justice systems.

35. **Mr. Coulibaly** (Mali) said that illicit drug trafficking was a source of financing for transnational organized crime and terrorist groups around the world. Mali had adopted policies commensurate with the scope of the drug phenomenon, including a legal framework. It had pursued institutional measures such as the creation of agencies tasked with preventing, controlling and punishing drug trafficking and established agencies to address health, pharmaceutical and security matters. Cooperation among those bodies allowed the Government to seize more than 600 kg of cannabis, 1.5 kg of cocaine and 10 kg of heroin in 2017.

36. With respect to multilateral cooperation, the Government and UNODC had worked together since 2014 to offer training activities for staff at Malian judicial and law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, the UNODC Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) had created a secure, real-time communication system between countries to better control illicit drug flows. Mali was convinced of the need for a unified response to such flows, and thus had ratified almost all relevant international legal instruments.

37. The cascading repercussions of the collapse of Libya in 2011 had led to an increase in terrorist acts and transnational organized crime in the Sahel region. The creation of the G5 Sahel had been a response to the need for regional cooperation in tackling such crimes and possessed a joint force mandated to combat terrorism and organized crime, including trafficking in migrants. However, a purely security-oriented response had its

limits, particularly in the context of the Sahel, with its widespread unemployment that left youth vulnerable to negative influences.

38. **Mr. Perera** (Sri Lanka) said that drug abuse adversely affected public health and safety around the world and hindered social and economic development. Despite efforts to prevent drug use among its citizens, Sri Lanka had continued to see slight but steady increases in narcotics consumption, particularly heroin. It had taken a comprehensive approach to the issue, focusing on treatment, rehabilitation and reducing supply and demand. Its National Dangerous Drugs Control Board worked to curb drug use by strengthening customs and law enforcement capabilities, developing a harmonized legislative approach to drug-related offences, and improving treatment and rehabilitation services. The Board also worked closely with the Police Narcotics Bureau to investigate major drug cases.

39. In 2005, the Government had developed a national policy to tackle the issue, which included enhanced measures to stem the production, smuggling, trafficking and use of illicit drugs. The policy also supported regional and international preventive initiatives and considered the links between drug use, poverty, crime and health. Sri Lanka had become a strategic hub for international drug smugglers in Asia, and the Government had responded to that development by tightening security procedures and regulations. The Government worked closely with the UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific on those issues. It also had partnered with six South Asian countries to establish a regional intelligence and coordination centre to facilitate information exchange and strengthen intergovernmental cooperation against crime.

40. **Mr. Cortorreal** (Dominican Republic) said that there were two main threats to global stability and security: drug trafficking and organized crime. His country had a well-known vulnerability to illicit trafficking in drugs, particularly because of its geographical location, which made it a natural country of transit between producer and consumer countries.

41. Local interventions were focused on prevention and containment campaigns that were particularly aimed at young people, supporting them through training and entrepreneurial opportunities. Measures had also been adopted to improve neighbourhoods affected by criminal activities, including by recovering public spaces for the most affected communities and reducing the risk of exclusion with a view to keeping the most vulnerable groups away from criminal networks. At the national level, a law against money laundering and

terrorist financing based on the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America had recently been adopted. Such initiatives had enabled the country to tackle an endemic scourge that threatened the integrity of its economy and democracy.

42. Progress could be made by joining forces, sharing information and providing mutual support. Developing countries devoted billions of dollars every year to curbing drug trafficking, thus assisting in protecting more developed countries. However, any amount spent would be insufficient in the face of the abundant resources of organized criminal networks, which undoubtedly had a bearing on the social disintegration experienced by many countries. His delegation called on developed countries to combat poverty in a comprehensive manner by tackling organized crime and drug trafficking.

43. **Mr. Sahraoui** (Algeria) said that his country, which was engaged in a battle against illicit drug trafficking, reiterated its commitment to the full implementation of international drug-control instruments. However, the fight against drugs could not succeed without a holistic approach based on social and economic development and regional and international cooperation. Algeria therefore prioritized regional cooperation, particularly with its neighbours in the Sahel region, by sharing information, training personnel and providing them with multidimensional assistance, including equipment. Algeria had also participated in the creation of the African Police Cooperation Organization (AFRIPOL), a mechanism that could help ensure the efficacy of African drug control work by facilitating information exchange among African police institutions.

44. The international community must act to dry up the sources of terrorist funding, which included financial flows from drug trafficking. To that end, Algeria had recently organized a high-level meeting of the African Union on the fight against terrorist financing. It had also made significant efforts to combat human trafficking by disrupting traffickers' networks and by updating its legal frameworks. A 2016 presidential decree had provided an interministerial committee with funding and a mandate to prevent and combat trafficking in persons. The Algerian penal code also imposed heavy sanctions on the perpetrators of those crimes.

45. **Mr. Bin Momen** (Bangladesh) said that his country had recently strengthened its resolve to contain the drug problem through heightened alertness and a zero-tolerance policy which dealt severely with perpetrators of drug-related crimes. Addressing the drug

problem remained difficult, nevertheless, because of the continuously changing nature of the drugs themselves and the ingenuity of smuggling tactics. Bangladesh was working to eradicate the use of Yaba tablets (a mixture of methamphetamine and caffeine) entering Bangladesh from Myanmar and other South-East Asian countries. Bangladesh had also adopted a whole-of-society approach that involved awareness campaigns, treatment and rehabilitation programmes and assistance to victims.

46. Because the illicit trade in drugs was driven by transnational organized groups, international cooperation was needed. Accordingly, Bangladesh had entered into bilateral agreements and border cooperation arrangements with other States, and its participation in joint border patrols and intelligence sharing efforts was producing results. In addition, Bangladesh maintained close communication with INTERPOL and cooperated with other States within the framework of regional initiatives such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. At the recent meeting on the global call to action on the world drug problem, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh had joined world leaders in underscoring the need for global unity to combat the scourge of illicit drugs.

47. **Ms. Carey** (Bahamas) said that her country reiterated its commitment to national, regional and international cooperation to prevent crime and counter the world drug problem through the exchange of best practices and capacity building. Crime and the drug problem threatened peace, security, development and the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms. As a small State with a strategic location for the shipment of illicit drugs and arms and other transnational organized criminal activity, the Bahamas continued to redirect human, technical and financial resources away from critical social and economic development to address those problems.

48. At the national level, the Bahamas had prioritized crime prevention and reduction, focusing on crime hotspots and repeat offenders. It engaged with local communities and youth, utilized forensic technologies and developed public awareness. The Government had entered into several bilateral and regional partnerships to respond to transnational crime and drug activity and worked with the United States and the Caribbean Community to combat illicit trafficking, promote social justice and increase public safety and security. Recently, a law had been drafted that would establish an entity to address corruption and practices related to public disclosure.

49. **Mr. Abdailah** (Nigeria) said that his country had brought its national legislation into compliance with Article 44 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in order to combat corruption and other transnational organized crimes. In September, Nigeria had hosted the Second International Conference on Combating Illicit Financial Flows and Enhancing Asset Recovery for Sustainable Development.

50. Nigeria, in an effort to counter money-laundering and stem the illicit proceeds of crime, had established an interministerial committee on money-laundering and financial terrorism, with input from law enforcement and regulatory agencies, to coordinate control of transnational organized syndicates. The collaboration had resulted in the confiscation by the Government of ill-gotten assets. In July, the Government had passed a law that provided a more robust legal framework for and greater autonomy to the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit and, as a result, Nigeria had been reinstated into the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

51. Nigeria had redoubled its efforts to combat drug proliferation, trafficking and abuse. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency was implementing a national drug control plan to address supply and demand issues, money-laundering and controlled access to narcotics for medical and scientific purposes. Nigeria nevertheless continued to suffer from high rates of abuse of tramadol and cough syrups containing codeine, especially by youths and women.

52. **Mr. Hassani Nejad Pikouhi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that Iran had sustained huge loss of life and property in the course of its campaign against regional and international armed drug traffickers. As part of its a strategy to reduce supply and demand for illegal drugs, the Government had implemented programmes focusing on harm reduction, rehabilitation and social reintegration. It also sought to reduce the prison population by implementing alternative punishments for drug-related offences. Pursuant to a new amendment to the drug trafficking law passed in 2017, the death penalty was limited to armed drug dealers, traffickers who exploited children and smugglers of very large quantities of drugs.

53. Combating transnational organized crime required international cooperation. Concrete measures were needed to prevent, prosecute and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The growing involvement of organized criminal groups in trafficking in cultural property continued to inflict damage on nations.

54. The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and believed that it could be

eliminated only through regional and international cooperation. Member States, as well as regional organizations, must avoid any politically-motivated ranking of States for the purposes of international cooperation in combating crime. Such rankings, along with unilateral sanctions, weakened international cooperation.

55. **Ms. Rosa Suazo** (Honduras) said that her country attached great importance to the issue of international drug control as it was experiencing at first hand the harmful effects of drug trafficking on public safety, respect for human rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Honduras had joined the recent Global Call to Action on the World Drug Problem, reaffirming its commitment to addressing the issue through a comprehensive approach based on scientific evidence and taking into account the links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including in some cases terrorism, which was understood to be linked to the actions of non-State groups such as criminal gangs.

56. The fight against drug trafficking needed to be approached in a holistic manner, and it was therefore imperative to continue to develop and strengthen comprehensive public health programmes, with due regard to gender, human rights and the inclusion of vulnerable groups. The main goal of its drug policy would be to protect the right to life and human integrity, giving civil society a significant role in the search for solutions and in the development of international drug policies and decision-making processes.

57. As a signatory to the three conventions aimed at eradicating drug-related crimes, in recent years Honduras had dismantled criminal structures and reduced violence and insecurity through the creation and strengthening of government institutions with a mandate to combat drug trafficking, the adoption of tough laws and the dismantling of laboratories for drug production. A number of initiatives had been launched, including awareness-raising campaigns in schools and the establishment of drug treatment centres. An executive secretariat had also been established to assist governmental and non-governmental institutions in their efforts to reduce the supply of and demand for drugs, and monitoring compliance with public policies and the obligations assumed in the drug control treaties and international conventions.

58. **Mr. Niang** (Senegal), recalling the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, said that, through its adoption of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda

to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, the international community had committed to combating drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, which required a clear expression of national will and strengthened bilateral, regional and international cooperation while upholding the rule of law, democracy and human rights.

59. National and transnational crime could only be overcome by adopting a holistic and preventive approach through flexible social policies that targeted its root causes. Addressing the global drug problem, which remained a serious threat to public safety, security and health, socioeconomic and political stability and sustainable development, required inclusive and innovative approaches, while effectively combatting terrorism required an integrated, multidisciplinary approach, including the collection of reliable data and the sharing of information and analysis.

60. Impunity with regard to transnational criminal organizations too often allowed their members to escape pursuit and punishment by crossing borders, while their victims bore scars for life. In order to fight that scourge, in 2008 the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had adopted a political declaration and regional action plan establishing a cooperation framework for the prevention of illicit drug trafficking and organized crime. States of the subregion, supported by UNODC, had also developed programmes to strengthen cooperation among criminal justice systems in West Africa and the Sahel, setting up prosecutor and judiciary cooperation networks to improve efficiency and impartiality. As such tools were important for strengthening the rule of law and consolidating peace, the international community and donors were encouraged to support their further development.

61. The fight against drug trafficking and related crimes was a national priority for Senegal, which had established an institutional framework through the creation of an interministerial committee for drug control and a central office for the suppression of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and adopted a law criminalizing drug trafficking. Supported by UNODC and WHO, Senegal had taken measures to improve its national drug treatment system with the creation of an integrated addictions management centre in Dakar. Senegal was also committed to the fight against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants through the ratification and transposition into national law of all relevant political conventions and protocols. Member States must work together to urgently find solutions to the serious

problems caused by drug trafficking, terrorism and other forms of organized crime.

62. **Mr. Adam** (Sudan) said that his country was making every effort to combat human trafficking, illicit drugs and terrorism, in line with its regional and international commitments. Sudan had enacted a new law on human trafficking in 2017, which had increased penalties for those convicted of trafficking offences, and had also signed border control agreements with neighbouring States to strengthen its efforts to combat arms trafficking and the activities of organized criminal gangs and terrorists. In July 2017, Sudan had hosted an international conference on human trafficking and smuggling in the Horn of Africa.

63. His country had adopted a national strategy on illicit drugs in 2015 and had also passed a number of related laws, including a law to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The financial investigations unit had been strengthened and Sudan had also streamlined the procedures for dealing with extradition requests and seizure of illicit financial assets. Sudan had also amended its legislation on drugs and psychotropic substances to bring it into line with relevant international instruments and had adopted regulations to ensure that drugs were used appropriately in the medical field. Sudan had also taken steps to strengthen the relationship between citizens and the police in urban areas, which had led to a reduction in crime.

64. Sudan called on peace partners, donor countries and other friendly States to increase their financial and technical assistance to countries in the Horn of Africa with a view to combating human trafficking, the illicit drug trade and international terrorism. In that connection, he drew attention to the exemplary cooperation between his country and the European Union in its efforts to combat human trafficking as part of the Khartoum process. It was imperative, moreover, to address the root causes of illegal migration flows, including, first and foremost, the poverty into which so many in the region were born.

65. **Mr. Leong** (Malaysia) said that the failure of Governments to tackle new and emerging forms of crime and drug abuse, which threatened security and stability and hampered social and economic development, would lead to serious repercussions. Crime prevention and drug control needed to become top priorities for both individual Member States and the global community as a whole, as advanced technology and communication tools were being used to extend such activities beyond national borders and jurisdictions.

66. Malaysia had strengthened national legislation and enhanced the capacity of law enforcement agencies in its own fight against crime and drugs and implemented demand reduction approaches through treatment, rehabilitation, prevention, enforcement and harm reduction. However, Malaysia also recognized that no country could fight crime and illicit drugs unilaterally. It maintained close bilateral cooperation in that field with many countries, and at the regional level with the States members of ASEAN, through various security and crime prevention platforms and instruments. At the international level it was a party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three international drug control conventions. Malaysia would continue to support the work of UNODC in its mandate on crime prevention, criminal justice and drug control and would remain steadfast in its national and international efforts in that area.

67. **Ms. Bouchikhi** (Morocco), recalling that criminal justice was a shared responsibility if the Sustainable Development Goals were to be met, said that preventing and combating international crime and drug trafficking required greater attention and support from the international community and strengthened partnerships among Member States. Given the continually evolving threat of transnational crime, in particular the alarming increase in the cultivation, trafficking and consumption of drugs of all categories, the appearance of new psychotropic substances and the online dissemination of new consumption patterns, new international strategies required greater coordination with regard to the exchange of information in order to take into account modern realities.

68. Africa had become a central transit platform for drug trafficking, through terrorist networks and insurrection movements throughout the region, threatening peace and stability in the Sahel and Maghreb regions and along the Atlantic coastline. In response, Morocco had recently adopted a clear, multidimensional anti-crime strategy to ensure the safety and security of its citizens and increased its bilateral cooperation with several countries, as well as with multilateral and regional specialized organizations, in particular the International Narcotics Control Board and UNODC. As a result, between 2015 and 2018, its national police force had arrested 301 people for which international arrest warrants had been issued and distributed 346 international arrest warrants issued by specialized judiciary authorities. Moreover, in October 2017, the police force carried out a major drug bust, seizing a record amount of raw cocaine with a market value of some \$2.75 billion, leading to 15 arrests and the dismantlement of a sophisticated drug ring operating

throughout Morocco, Latin America, Europe and the Arab world.

69. **Mr. Mattar** (Egypt) said that fully exercising national sovereignty and ensuring respect for the rule of law could significantly bolster efforts to promote sustainable development, whereas criminal activity, including drug-related offences, could seriously undermine security and the stability of societies. It was thus crucial for Member States to make effective use of recent technological advances that could facilitate efforts to combat criminal activity, including new forms of crime such as Internet-based theft, money-laundering, and terrorism financing.

70. The illegal trade in antiquities was of great concern to Egypt, and his Government had therefore taken a number of steps to protect its cultural heritage, including the introduction of stricter penalties for the smuggling of cultural artefacts, the signing of international cooperation agreements to combat the illegal trafficking of antiquities and facilitate the recovery of looted items, and the development of training courses for professionals involved in efforts to safeguard the country's heritage.

71. Egypt had launched a new national strategy to combat human trafficking that had been drafted with input from the relevant State agencies and civil society organizations. In 2016, a law had been enacted to fight illegal migration and the smuggling of migrants that imposed punitive sanctions on offenders. Those efforts had enabled it to enhance its control of its maritime borders and bring increasing numbers of traffickers to justice. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also organized a number of training workshops on border management and combating human trafficking for African diplomats and members of peacekeeping forces.

72. Egypt believed that a clear vision was needed for the period following the 2019 expiration of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, especially as its objectives had not been achieved. Egypt therefore supported its extension in order to avoid any gaps in the regime for confronting the global drug problem. In that connection, Egypt had recently participated with more than 125 States in a high-level event on the margins of the General Assembly on the world's illicit drug problem. At home, Egypt was working with a range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to combat drug addiction by supporting programmes to raise awareness of the dangers of illicit drugs, provide treatment to addicts and reintegrate former drug users into society. Egypt had received international

recognition for its efforts in that area and, in September 2018, the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (UNIATF) had presented an award to the Egyptian Minister of Social Solidarity in recognition of her outstanding contribution to non-communicable disease prevention and control.

73. To combat corruption, Egypt had adopted robust national policies to uphold the principles of separation of powers, rule of law, transparency and respect for human rights. However, for Egypt to combat crime and illicit drugs and to strengthen its criminal justice system effectively, it would need additional support from the international community, particularly in the areas of capacity building and asset recovery. He called on Member States and the United Nations to strengthen their cooperation frameworks and training programmes in those areas.

74. **Ms. Cruz Yábar** (Spain) said that crime prevention, criminal justice and international drug control were of extreme importance in protecting the freedom, rights and well-being of citizens. Action taken to combat the crimes addressed by the Committee must take into account both the low likelihood of their eradication in the near future and their ever-changing nature. The transnational character of those crimes required collective action.

75. Trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal and trafficking in human organs was a heinous crime that violated the most basic of human rights, often victimizing members of the most marginalized communities. Combating it required dedicated international action on three fronts, justice, health and human rights, to develop national policies and international cooperation frameworks. Its frequent association with organized crime and issues of extraterritoriality complicated those efforts, posing challenges in gathering necessary information and maintaining adequate records. A detailed report on the subject from the World Health Organization would help to clarify the situation.

76. The only way to fight such crime was through strict respect for the rule of law, including on the international stage, by further strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, through the Organized Crime Convention and the various conventions and protocols on combating terrorism, drug trafficking and corruption. Spain looked forward to addressing cyberterrorism, electronic evidence, trafficking in persons and the protection of cultural heritage during the current session. It was also

crucial to address and combat, in line with technical support provided by UNODC and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, all aspects of drug abuse, which caused serious and highly complex social development problems in many countries.

77. **Mr. Asruchin** (Indonesia) said that the work of UNODC in enhancing international cooperation and facilitating technical assistance on crime prevention and criminal justice had been beneficial in attaining the effective implementation of the Organized Crime Convention. Indonesia urged Member States that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention and stood ready to work with other States parties towards its comprehensive implementation and that of its Protocols.

78. Trafficking in persons was a heinous crime that affected safety, security and social development in all countries, degrading human dignity and denying people the enjoyment of a peaceful and prosperous life. It must therefore be taken seriously and addressed collectively and comprehensively. Preventing and combating emerging forms of crime, such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property and endangered species of wild fauna and flora, in particular fisheries, must also be addressed collectively. The continuation and expansion of the work of UNDOC in that regard, with international support, was therefore greatly appreciated.

79. Achieving a world free of drug abuse required comprehensive, integrated and balanced demand reduction strategies, including international law enforcement cooperation, to deter criminal syndicates and drug traffickers. In the previous six years, Indonesia had established seven multilateral memorandums of understanding aimed at preventing and combating illicit drug trafficking. It also regularly sent law enforcement officers to regional or international training programmes and workshops. Successful drug control action must balance prevention efforts and eradication measures that were consistent with international treaties, while also respecting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. Despite the progress made, Indonesia still faced challenges in countering the illicit trafficking of the many incoming forms of synthetic drugs from various regions. Strict law enforcement measures were an essential part of its strategy.

80. **Mr. Mikayili** (Azerbaijan) said that corruption had a detrimental effect on democracy, the rule of law and sustainable development and was an obstacle to the effective promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. At a high-level General Assembly debate held in May 2018 to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Convention against Corruption, increasing corruption

had been recognized as a key driver of organized crime. In compliance with that Convention, ratified by Azerbaijan in 2005, the country had established specialized anti-corruption policymaking and law enforcement agencies. In 2012, Azerbaijan had participated in the first cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the Convention; the second review cycle was currently under way. Azerbaijan had also adopted four national action plans to combat corruption, with significant progress recorded, and established a dedicated state agency to provide easy-access, transparent public services, with zero tolerance for corruption.

81. Azerbaijan had strengthened its national anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing system, successfully passing through four rounds of evaluations by the Council of Europe, and, in May 2018, had established an independent financial monitoring service to improve legislative compliance in that regard. The Government was also currently implementing a national action plan on trafficking in persons, through continuous improvements to national legislation and law enforcement, including the addition of four articles to the Criminal Code defining liability for trafficking in persons and the establishment of a special police unit within the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

82. Azerbaijan was fully committed to cooperating with Member States and international organizations to address all forms of organized crime. In that regard, it had signed more than 100 bilateral and multilateral instruments on information-sharing, the joint investigation of crimes and cooperation in training and education.

83. **Mr. Komara** (Guinea), noting that his country had ratified the major subregional, regional and international legal instruments against transnational crime and had adopted both the UNODC Regional Programme for West Africa and the ECOWAS regional action plan, said that organized crime threatened human peace and security, violated human rights and undermined socioeconomic and cultural development. Because poverty and unemployment created fertile ground for drug abuse and trafficking to flourish, eradicating transnational organized crime required national and global action focused on the prevention and suppression of drug trafficking and on support for and the reintegration of its victims.

84. Owing to porous borders and weak Governments, the ECOWAS region, including Guinea, had long been used as a link in the illicit drug distribution chain between Latin America and Europe. Nevertheless, political stabilization, combined with the creation of a

specialized department for combating drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, the establishment of a national school of police, justice reform, the suspension of magistrates for corruption and regular arrests of human traffickers along the border, had enabled Guinea to redouble its efforts against such crimes and stem the tide.

85. Notwithstanding such progress, his Government continued to face challenges. Grateful for the unwavering support of its bilateral and multilateral partners, Guinea requested the international community to continue to strengthen cooperation among all stakeholders in order to rid humanity of all forms of crime.

86. **Ms. Banaken** (Cameroon) said that, while transnational organized crime and financial crime posed major threats to the security, stability and rule of law of all countries, the greatest concern for Cameroon was terrorism. In response to attacks in recent years by Boko Haram in the Far North region and by secessionists in the North-West and South-West regions of the country, the Government had, among other measures, strengthened political and legal institutions, conducted awareness-raising campaigns and implemented education and security reforms.

87. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), his Government had adopted a law aimed at bringing to justice those involved in terrorism, in line with international standards and international and regional commitments made by Cameroon. In its efforts, his country was guided by respect for human rights and compliance with the relevant United Nations principles, including the fundamental rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, as evidenced during the twenty-third special session of the Human Rights Council on Boko Haram, held in April 2015.

88. In Cameroon, the use of psychotropic drugs went hand in hand with an increase in the commission of terrorist acts by both secessionists and members of Boko Haram, while drug trafficking was used to finance terrorist networks. Despite the numerous national and international measures already taken to counter terrorism, that threat persisted, owing to its transnational character and to the increasing openness of borders through social media and through new threats such as cybercrime. Countries were therefore urged to strengthen multilateral cooperation, as recommended in the Doha Declaration on crime prevention, including by ratifying the Organized Crime Convention and its Optional Protocols.

89. **Mr. Mohamed** (Libya) said that worsening levels of poverty, unemployment and social exclusion were

exacerbating illegal drug-related criminal activity and corruption in many parts of the world, while weak security and oversight in many countries and their limited capacity to address those challenges were causing further economic, social and political instability. Robust regional and international cooperation was needed to combat the global drug problem, and many States would require sustained and predictable technical, financial and capacity-building assistance if they were to play an effective role in that regard.

90. Concerted efforts were also needed to combat transnational crime and trafficking in persons, which were undermining the security and stability of many societies and impeding development. Libya was seeking to enhance its collaboration with neighbouring countries with a view to combating transnational crime and trafficking and called for the effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the regional conference on border security that had been held in Tripoli in 2012. Libya also called on the Security Council to avoid a selective and politicized approach when imposing penalties on those involved in human trafficking and to impose sanctions on all those who had committed trafficking offences, regardless of where they were located.

91. Libya reiterated its call on UNODC to provide it with the technical and capacity-building assistance it needed so that it could uphold its international obligations. In particular, it called on the Office to help Libya and other affected countries recover their stolen financial assets so that those assets could be used to promote security, stability and prosperity. Libya looked forward to the re-opening of the UNODC subregional programme office for the Maghreb countries in Tripoli and the resumption of its activities there at the earliest opportunity.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.